

The choice of a contractor for the construction of the Trippunittura Guest House.

373. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) the name of the contractor to whom the construction of the Guest House at Trippunittura is entrusted;
- (b) were tenders invited for the work;
- (c) if so, who were the persons who submitted tenders, and what were their rates;
- (d) the estimated amount and the amount sanctioned this year?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Mr. V. K. Narayana Menon.

(b) Yes.

(c) 1. Messrs. K. N. Sundra Ayyar & Co., Cochin, at 1% less than the estimated rates.

2. Mr. V. K. Narayana Menon, at estimated rates.

3. Mr. M. T. Pathrose, at estimated rates.

(d) Rs. 29,000 and Rs. 22,600 respectively.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Three contractors, Mr. V. K. Narayana Menon, Messrs. K. N. Sundra Ayyar & Sons, and Mr. M. T. Pathrose submitted estimates, and Messrs. K. N. Sundra Ayyar & Sons gave estimate at one per cent less than the estimate, and the other two at the estimated rates, and the tender offered by Mr. V. K. Narayana Menon was accepted. Is not this Mr. Narayana Menon the father-in-law of the Chief Engineer?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—Yes.

President.—You must see that there is no insinuation in this matter. The Chief Engineer's report is that, as one of the contractors happened to be his father-in-law, the Government should dispose of the matter. I take up the whole responsibility on myself.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—In all estimates amounting to more than Rs. 5,000 the Diwan should accept the tender.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Did not the Chief Engineer recommend?

President.—In this particular case, no recommendation was made, because one of the tenderers happened to be the father-in-law of the Chief Engineer, and he placed the whole matter before me, and I took the responsibility on myself.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Messrs. Sundra Ayyar & Sons gave estimate one per cent less than the estimated rates.

President.—It is not always the rule that it should be given to the lowest tenderer. We must see whether he will do the work satisfactorily. We know that Mr. V. K. Narayana Menon is an experienced man, and we thought that he will do the work properly. The Government should be allowed some discretion to pick up the right person.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Do not these contractors give security to the Government?

President.—Yes.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Then, where is the necessity for the Government to entertain any fear?

President.—Although these contractors give us security, they will give us a lot of trouble. It is the personal factor that counts much in all these cases. Sometimes, they will take their own time to do the work. Sometimes, they will not have ready money to start with, and we may require the completion of the work very early. Please remember, Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar, that you are not grown up to understand these things.

The damage to the Lunatic Asylum building.

374. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) the exact stage at which the enquiry regarding the damage caused to a new building in the Lunatic Asylum *now stands*;

(b) the names of the individuals who were at fault and the nature of the punishment meted out to them;

(c) whether this work was under article 126 of *the P. W. Code*;

(d) the date of damage caused to the building and the date when the enquiry (in answer to question No. 158 of the Vrischigam session) was begun?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) The enquiry is completed.

(b) (1) Mr. P. Varadachari, Overseer. Fine Rs. 10 and barring promotion for one year.

(2) E. M. Joseph, Section Superintendent. Suspension for 2 months.

(3) Mr. M. D. Narayana Ayyar, Assistant Engineer. Warning.

(c) Yes.

(d) The damage occurred on 26th June 1925, and the enquiry was started on 2nd July 1925.